

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 02203 082026Z

70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04

SIL-01 EURE-00 /081 W

----- 037614

O R 081507Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9238

INFBUD FHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 1231

AMEMBASSY BRUESSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PARAGUE

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 2203

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PFOR, SW, US, FI

SUBJECT: METALWORKERS' ELECTIONS: FUND SMUGGLING

ATTEMPT PROVOKES ALLEGATIONS OF CIA INVOLVEMENT

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PAGE 02 HELSIN 02203 082026Z

BEGIN SUMMARY: OFFICIALS OF FINNISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC

PARTY (SDP) APPREHENDED AT STOCKHOLM AIRPORT OCTOBER 7 ATTEMPTING TO SMUGGLE QUARTER MILLION SWEDISH CROWNS TO FINLAND. MONEY WAS TO USED TO SUPPORT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES IN NOVEMBER 2-4 METALWORKERS' UNION ELECTIONS. THIS AFTERNOON FINNISH PRESS CITES SWEDISH SOURCES ALLEGING MONEY ORIGINALLY PROVIDED BY CIA. END SUMMARY.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. THREE FINNS WERE DETECTED AT ARLANDA AIRPORT OCTOBER 7 CARRYING ABOUT 200,000 SWEDISH CROWNS FOR WHICH THEY LACKED REQUIRED EXPORT PERMIT. A FOURTH FINN, WITH 50,000 CROWNS, WAS UNDETECTED WHEN HE TOOK AN EARLIER FLIGHT TO FINLAND. FINNS, WHO WERE ALL SDP GUESTS SWEDISHSOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONVENTION, EXPLAINED THAT MONEY HAD BEEN GIVEN THEM BY SWEDISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS TO SUPPORT FINNISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC EFFORTS IN UPCOMING METALWORKERS' ELECTIONS. LEADERSHIP OF BOTH FINNISH AND SWEDISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES SUBSEQUENTLY DENIED ALL KNOWLEDGE OF TRANSACTION. SO TOO DID FINNISH METALWORKERS' CHAIRMAN SULA PENTTILA WHO DID, HOWEVER, NOTE INTRA-NORDIC STRIKE ASSISTANCE TRANSACTIONS IN RECENT YEARS. SWEDISH METALWORKERS' CHIEF SECRETARY HANS KARLSSON ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HIS UNION HAD RECENTLY GIVEN 75,000 CROWNS TO FINNISH METALWORKERS BUT DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF SUMS DISCOVERED AT ARLANDA.

2. FINNISH AFTERNOON PRESS OCTOBER 8 HEADLINES SWEDISH EXPRESSEN'S US CORRESPONDENT ERNST KLEIN'S STORY REPORTING THAT CIA MAY BE ULTIMATE SOURCE OF SMUGGLED FUNDS. ANOTHER EXPRESSEN STORY REPORTS THAT SDP BUDGET CHIEF PENTTI KETOAL HAD A RECEIPT NOTING CONVERSION OF 100,000 GERMAN MARKS TO SWEDISH CROWNS AND THAT KETOLA ADMITTED THAT LION'S SHARE OF MONEY HE AND COLLEAGUES CARRYING WAS OF WEST GERMAN ORIGIN. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: FINNISH PARLIAMENT WAS BUZZING
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PAGE 03 HELSIN 02203 082026Z

WITH STORY THIS AFTERNOON AND METALWORKERS SDP LEADERSHIP MEETING TO CONSIDER RAMIFICATIONS OF STORY. HIGH-LEVEL METALWORKERS' OFFICIAL WAS SWEARING AT "BOURGEOIS SENSATIONALIST PRESS" IN COVERSATION WITH LABOR ATTACHE. SOURCE STATED, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD BEEN CALLING AROUND COUNTRY ALL DAY AND THAT HE DID NOT THINK REVELATIONS WOULD HAVE MAJOR EFFECT ON ELECTIONS. "THERE ARE STILL THREE WEEKS TO GO AND THE AFFAIR CAN

BE CLEARED UP IN THAT TIME". RANK AND FILE IN FACT
PLEASED THAT ELECTION MONEY NOT COMING OUT OF
THEIR POCKETS. SOURCE ADMITTED THAT DISCUSSIONS
HAD BEEN HELD WITH SWEDES ABOUT OBTAINING
ELECTION FUNDS. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE WAY CUSTOMS
MEN AT ARLANDS POUNCED ON THREE FINNS INDICATED A
TIPOFF.

4. COMMENT: WE ARE NOT QUITE SO OPTIMISTIC AS
METALWORKERS' SOURCE THAT AFFAIR WILL NOT BE RE-
FLECTED IN RESULTS OF ELECTIONS IN FINLAND'S LARGEST
AND MOST IMPORTANT TRADE UNION. ALL ESTIMATES WE HAVE
HAD TO DATE INDICATE THAT ELECTION WILL BE
EXTREMELY CLOSE, ALTHOUGH MOST PREDICT SOCIAL
DEMOCRATIC VICTORY. IF, HOWEVER, COMMUNISTS SHOULD
WIN THEIR VICTORY WOULD HAVE MAJOR AND LONG-LASTING
EFFECTS ON FINNISH SOCIETY. IN SHORT TERM IT WOULD
FURTHER UNSETTLE GOVERNMENT STABILITY AND COMPLICATE
EFFORTS TO GET ECONOMY BACK ON EVEN KEEL AND IN LONG
TERM IT COULD LEAD TO NEW SPLIT IN FINNISH LABOR
MOVEMENT AND WEAKEN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY TO BENEFIT
OF COMMUNISTS.
BRENNER

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